

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claim 28 has been amended to further define “inorganic fillers” and “a thermoplastic matrix.” Support for such amendments can be found in the instant specification at least in paragraphs [0027] and [0040]. Claim 25 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-20, 22, 23, 29 and 33 were previously canceled. No new matter has been added.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 21, 24, 26-28, 30-32 and 34-37 will be all the claims pending in the application.

In the Official Action, 21, 24-28, 30-32 and 34-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over International Publication No. WO 02/02696 (*WO '696*). The Patent Office has relied on U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0087734 (*Bianchi et al.*) as being an English language equivalent of *WO '696*. Withdrawal of the above rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 28 is directed to a thermoplastic polymer composition comprising: (a) more than 2% by weight and less than 4% by weight with respect to the total weight of the polymer composition of a combination of inorganic fillers, said combination comprising at least two inorganic fillers selected from the group consisting of zinc sulfide, titanium dioxide, silica, and barium sulphate, and (b) a thermoplastic matrix selected from the group consisting of polyesters and polyamides, other than a polymer composition having a polyester matrix and comprising a binary combination of titanium dioxide and of zinc sulfide.

Bianchi et al. relates to a thermoplastic polymer composition comprising a polyamide and at least one compound for modifying the hydrophilicity and/or the antistatic behavior. Paragraph [0011]. *Bianchi et al.* discloses that the composition may, in particular, contain a delustrant. Paragraph [0042].

Bianchi et al. does not disclose or suggest each feature recited in independent claim 28. For example, *Bianchi et al.* does not disclose or suggest a thermoplastic polymer composition comprising more than 2% by weight and less than 4% by weight with respect to the total weight of the polymer composition of a combination of inorganic fillers, said combination comprising at least two inorganic fillers selected from the group consisting of zinc sulfide, titanium dioxide, silica, and barium sulphate. By comparison, *Bianchi et al.* discloses specific ranges of the proportion by weight of delustrant in the compositions of "between 0.2 and 0.5%", "between 0.5 and 1%", and "between 1% and 2%". See paragraph [0043]. That is, *Bianchi et al.* is primarily concerned with the use of a delustrant in an amount less than 2%. There is simply no disclosure or suggestion of employing more than 2% by weight, particularly, more than 2% by weight and less than 4% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the polymer composition of the combination of inorganic fillers specified in claim 28.

Applicants have discovered that employing such specific range of the combination of inorganic fillers, together with the specific combination of inorganic fillers, in accordance with an exemplary aspect of the presently claimed invention, can, for example, result in a surprising increased degree of mattness (paragraphs [0036] and [0037] and Examples). For instance, as shown in Table Ib of the present specification, the degree of mattness observed in samples prepared with an amount of a combination (25:75, 50:50 and 75:25, respectively) of TiO_2/ZnS is greater than that observed in samples prepared with an equal amount of TiO_2 alone and an equal amount of ZnS alone. *Bianchi et al.* has no recognition or suggestion of attaining such a surprising increased degree of mattness in connection with the specific combination of inorganic fillers, together with the specific range of such combination of inorganic fillers.

For at least the above reasons, it is apparent that no *prima facie* case of obviousness exists. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.


From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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